

This is illustrated by the case of a clerk surprised by a friend in the act of drinking a stimulant while at his desk. Feeling the necessity of an apology he pointed to a great stack of letters, some of them calling for both diplomacy and firmness in decision.

"You'll get no help from the whiskey," said his friend. "It won't help you to any clearer understanding."

"No," said he, "but it will make me get through the letters quicker, because, while it works, I shall care a great deal less for the opinions of the writers, and be a great deal more confident in my own."

In other words, his judgment being under a condition of temporary paralysis, his will would have fewer obstacles to overcome in arriving at a decision.

It is now a settled scientific fact that even moderate doses of alcohol exert a deadening influence on all mental processes. Apprehension is slower. This is shown by the test of association of ideas in which, a word being given to the subject, he at once repeats the companion word that suggests itself to him—for instance, to the suggestion "cloud" he may reply "ominous," to "flower" he may say "pretty." Under the influence of alcohol such tests show poorer and lower connections. Accuracy in all technical work is lessened. This has been especially tested in the case of men working on typesetting machines. Errors increase in number, perhaps because of the deadening of the control centers. One experimenter, referring to the fact that his typewriting errors were enormously increased by alcohol, said: "I had the feeling that the fingers ran faster than I could find the right spot for the stroke. I often struck keys against my will, so that I must voluntarily inhibit the movements in order not to make a mistake at every letter."

A recent report on "Psychological Effects of Alcohol," published by the Carnegie Institute, sums this condition up in these words: "Whatever may be the effect in isolated tissue, our data give clear and consistent indications that the apparent alcoholic depression of neuro-muscular processes is a genuine phenomenon that cannot be reduced to the excitation of inhibitory processes; but that, conversely, whenever apparent excitation occurs as a result of alcohol, it is either demonstrably or probably due to a relatively overbalancing depression of the controlling and inhibitory processes."

A lack of balance due to the fact that the controlling processes of the mind are depressed or deadened by alcoholic influence must inevitably result in confusion. It is true that the degree of confusion may not be so great that a clever speaker cannot pilot his way successfully, and, in fact, because of the very absence of restraint, his arguments may have a fallacious brilliancy and audacity that for the time tend to carry conviction; but they are not sound and in the end lead to confusion.

What, then, may be expected of the will that is constantly subjected to this deadening influence? There is little doubt that the tendency is to degeneration, even as is the tendency of the body under like influence. The argument that certain men of high standing have borne the burden of great affairs for many years, in spite of the moderate use of alcohol, is a poor one in the face of latter-day scientific investigations. The obvious answer is that men who could bear such a handicap must have been those of unusual caliber who would have risen to tremendous heights without it. There is a counterargument in the very frequent reports of men of affairs going suddenly to mental or

moral crash without any cause other than the persistent moderate use of alcoholic drinks.

From the standpoint of business such temporary paralysis of the will as is induced by alcohol many times causes the wreck of bright prospects. From the standpoint of the home the numbing influence induces a condition of low standards. Vice in all its aspects is robbed of its hideous form under this state of partial paralysis, and the most hideous of social sins may become fastened upon the victim before he is aware of his error.

Perhaps the result most deplorable of all is that this very paralyzing influence so deadens the will of the user of alcohol that he is unable to break loose from his chains. While under its influence he can see no harm in it. When sober reflection comes he has so lost the firm balance of his will that he is unable to make a decision of such strength as will enable him to stand against temptation. Thus it is that alcohol completes its "vicious circle" in its effect upon the will.—The Westminster Teacher.

STOP LIQUOR WHILE WAR IS ON.

Immediate prohibition of all liquor selling throughout the United States as an emergency measure of preparation for war is being influentially urged on Congress, and it is gratifying to learn that a considerable number of congressmen are already willing to stand openly for such a policy.

Under the system of limited powers granted to the national government through the Federal Constitution, it would not be possible for Congress to pass a law simply forbidding the liquor traffic as an act of ordinary police power. In normal circumstances, therefore, the safe and permanent means of national prohibition clearly appeared to be an amendment to the Constitution specifically empowering Congress to prohibit the making and selling of intoxicants. But in the present war crisis more drastic methods become permissible under authority of the very general clause which empowers Congress "to provide for the general defense." It has been well established by Supreme Court decisions that the nation's judiciary will uphold any sort of legislation in war which has reasonable color of contributing to the safety and perpetuation of the republic. It is accepted by all authorities as an axiom of constitutional law that any government must be allowed to be lawfully possessed of the right to do whatever its own self-preservation requires.

With all modern light on the alcohol question, it can no longer be considered a forced construction of fact or logic which demands the abolition of intoxicants for the sake of national defense. Not only is it clear today that a sober soldiery is absolutely necessary on the battle line and a sober industrial force in the war-supply factories, but it is also plain that no nation at war can afford to let its food products be turned into alcoholic drink. Whatever portion of the nation's grain crops can be spared for alcohol ought to be used as a matter of national economy not for drinks but for munitions. The clearest possible case for war prohibition can be made out along these lines, and certainly the United States will not join Great Britain in the foolish position of admitting all this and yet refusing to act on it.

Various suggestions for the method of liquor suppression are pending at Washington, and it is to be hoped that a consensus of opinion on the most practicable will soon crystallize. A tax high enough to be prohibitive of all manufacture might be laid on breweries and distilleries, or liquor might be declared a habit-forming

drug and placed under the drastic restrictions which the Harrison act already imposes on opium and cocaine. An act confiscating all alcohol for the use of the government in manufacture of ammunition would also serve. A law forbidding liquor sales within ten miles from any recruiting station would leave mighty little of the drink trade. And the very least that Congress can be expected to do to enact that liquors shall no more be shipped in any interstate commerce—which would be constitutional even in a time of peace.—The Continent.

THE TRAMP'S SERMON.

Probably no more eloquent or dramatic sermon on the sin of drunkenness was ever heard than that to which a small gathering of men recently listened in a New Orleans barroom. The drinkers—a group of well-dressed young men with plenty of money—were standing at the bar, when a poor, miserable specimen of a tramp pushed open the swinging doors and, with bleared eyes, looked at them appealingly. They ordered a drink for him, paid for it, and then boisterously demanded that he make a speech. After swallowing the liquor the tramp gazed at them for an instant, and then, with a dignity and eloquence that showed how far he had fallen in the social scale, he began to speak:

"Gentlemen," said he, "I look tonight at you and at myself, and it seems to me I look upon the picture of my lost manhood. This bloated face was once as young and handsome as yours. This shambling figure once walked as proudly as yours—a man in the world of men. I, too, once had a home and friends and position. I had a wife as beautiful as an artist's dream, and I dropped the priceless pearl of her honor and respect in the wine cup, and Cleopatra-like, saw it dissolved, and quaffed it down in the brimming draft. I had children as sweet and lovely as the flowers of spring. I saw them fade and die under the blighting curse of a drunken father. I had a home where love lit the flame upon the altar and ministered before it, and I put out the holy fire, and darkness and desolation have reigned in its stead. I had aspirations and ambitions that soared as high as the morning star, and I broke, and bruised, and at last strangled them that I might not be tortured with their cries. Today I am a husband without a wife, a father without a child, a tramp with no home to call his own, a man in whom every good impulse is dead—all, all swallowed up in the maelstrom of strong drink."

The tramp ceased speaking. The glass fell from his nerveless fingers and shattered into fragments, and when the little group about the bar looked up the tramp was gone. And millions more who stand in the shadow of the bottle could bear similar testimony. Hear one more:

A professional gentleman who was accustomed to take his morning glass stepped into a saloon, and going up to the bar called for whiskey. A seedy man stepped up to him and said: "I say, squire, can't you ask an unfortunate fellow to join you?"

He was annoyed by the man's familiarity, and roughly said, "I am not in the habit of drinking with tramps."

"You need not be so cranky and high-minded, my friend. I venture to say that I am of just as good a family as you are, have just as good an education, and before I took to drink was just as respectable as you are. What is more, I always knew how to act the gentleman. Take my word for it, you stick to whiskey and it will bring you to just the same place I am."

Struck with his words, the gentleman sat down his glass and turned to look at him. His eyes were bloodshot,

his face bloated, his boots mismatched, his clothing filthy. "Was it drink that made you like this?"

"Yes, it was; and it will bring you to the same if you stick to it."

Picking up his untouched glass, he poured its contents upon the floor, and said, "Then it is time I quit," and left the saloon, never to enter it again.

We speak of the horrors of war, and surely there are horrors enough—carnage and bloodshed and terrible mutilation. There are crippled men, empty coat sleeves, weeping, desolate widows, and hungry, homeless orphans, together with enormous debts and grinding taxation. But all these fail to compare in their horrors and woes with the victims of the overshadowing curse of rum. Rum debauches more homes, makes more misery and anguish, more pauperism, crime and murder, and more victims of self-destruction than war ever has.

We shudder, and well we may, as we read the sickening ravages of the pestilence as it stalks unchecked through the land, and lays its icy touch upon its victims here and there. But the pestilence lays hold upon the body, leaving the soul unharmed. But think of that ragged army of bleared-eyed victims of intemperance who by the tens of thousands annually reel down into drunkards' graves, every one damned for time and eternity.—Selected.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES

GROWING AS CHRIST GREW.

- M., May 14. Growing in God's house. 1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26.
- T., May 15. Growing in grace. 1 Pet. 2:1-4, 20.
- W., May 16. Growing in character. 2 Pet. 1:1-11.
- T., May 17. Arrested growth. Heb. 5:12-14; 6:1-3.
- F., May 18. Growth in good. Col. 1:1-14.
- S., May 19. Perfect manhood. Eph. 4:20-32.
- S., May 20. Topic—Growing as Christ Grew. (Union meeting with Juniors and Intermediates.) Luke 2:41-52.

*How can we help mental growth?
How can we assist spiritual growth?
How does bodily health affect mental growth?*

Growing in God's House. (1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26.) Samuel not only grew in stature while he dwelt in the Lord's house at Shiloh, but he grew in favor with God and men. By that is meant that he grew in character, so that he became more and more what God would have him to be. While it would not ordinarily be advisable to take a child away from the mother and have him brought up in a church building, still the more he is carried to church and made to feel that in his spiritual home, the better it will be for him. The child that is taken regularly to Sunday-school and church by the parents will soon acquire the habit of going, and the probability is that it will remain with him through life. There is no better way to cultivate the Christian life of the child than by creating in him this church-going habit. Children should be trained to attend the church services as well as the Sunday-school. If parents are not giving them this training, then others ought to do what they can to supply the lack.

Growth in Character. (2 Pet. 1:1-20.) "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Pet. 3:18. This is the chief duty and should be the chief aim of every Christian. The tree that stops growing begins to die. Growing in grace is becoming more like Christ, and so better fitted for doing his work. In order that we may grow in grace, we must, with God's help, give up sin of all kinds, just as far as it is possible. Then we are to feed our souls on the pure word of God. We are to learn all that we can about Jesus the Saviour and about the revelation that he has given us of God's will.

Growth in Character. (2 Pet. 2:1-